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AUG
DOOM
RAVAGE
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FAREWELL, FERRA.. YOU WERE A LOYAL AND NOBLE FRIEND. I WILL MOURN YOUR PASSING..
..ONCE I AVENGE YOUR DEATH AND TURN THIS SEA-FLOOR SLIMEBAG INTO SUSHI!
BEFORE DYING, FERRA MINDLINKED WITH THIS NIGHTMARE. SHE SAID IT WAS A SPACE-BORNE PARASITE THAT DEVOURS THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF OTHERS.
IT LIES DORMANT ON ALIEN WORLDS FOR EONS UNTIL AWAKENED BY POLLUTION, THE EFFLUENT OF "INTELLIGENT" CIVILIZATIONS. THEN THEY CHOW DOWN ON WHOEVER THEY FIND.
I'M ONE MEAL THAT'S DEFINITELY GONNA DISAGREE WITH IT!
WHAT THE HEL'? NONE OF OUR ORDNANCE IS MAKING A DENT! WHAT CAN RAVAGE DO WITH HIS BARE HANDS?
WHAT HE'S ALWAYS DONE... FIGHT AGAINST THE ODDS NO MATTER WHAT! HE IS A WARRIOR TRUE!
SHOCK IT! WHO WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER? LET'S GO, DOGFACES, IT'S DYING TIME!

POUR IT ON!
CHOOM
CHOOM
SHOOK! IT'S GOT ME!
KEEP FIRING, MEN! IGNORE ME...
KA-CHOW!
OH NO...IT'S... IT'S TIGHTENING... RAVAGE...
CRISP! WE'VE LOST ANOTHER ALLY!
YOU'LL PAY!
KEEARGH!

I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS, TIANA... I DIDN'T IMAGINE IT WOULD END THIS WAY.
YOU ALWAYS DID KNOW HOW TO SHOW A GIRL A GOOD TIME, PAUL-PHILIP. SEE YOU IN VALHALLA...
SKRZZEEK!
TALK ABOUT A BOLT FROM THE BLUE! GUESS SOMEONE UP THERE LIKES US?
THAT THING'S COOKED INSIDE OUT, LIKE IT WAS HIT WITH A MICROWAVE CANNON! AND I THOUGHT WE WERE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
NO ONE DIES..

...UNLESS I WILL IT!
DOOM!
OR SHOULD I SAY "MR. PRESIDENT"? YOU'VE AN UNCANNY KNACK OF BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME!
I MAKE A POINT OF IT.
HOWEVER, MY DISPOSAL OF THAT ABOMINATION WAS JUST A FORTUNATE COINCIDENCE... FORTUNATE FOR YOU THAT IS.
I AM HERE ON A MATTER OF STATE...

...TO WIPE HELLROCK AND EVERYTHING UPON IT FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
WHAT!!
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, DOOM! QUICKLY!
A LAST REQUEST? VERY WELL.
THE ION INDUCTION FIELD THAT ATTRACTS POLLUTION TO THESE SHORES LIKE A MAGNET HAS BEEN SABOTAGED.
THE RESULTING EXPLOSION WILL TERMINALLY CONTAMINATE THIS PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE.
FORTUNATELY I HAVE DEACTIVATED THIS DEVICE. IT IS NO LONGER A THREAT... UNLIKE HELLROCK.
THIS ISLAND IS AN INCURABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CANCER, ONE EVEN MY ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS CANNOT CURE.
THEREFORE RADICAL SURGERY IS NECESSARY. HELLROCK AND ALL UPON IT MUST GO.
STEPS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY.

YOU DARE! BY WHAT RIGHT?!
I AM DOOM! THAT IS RIGHT ENOUGH!
I'LL SHRED YOUR HIDE, TIN MAN!
I THINK NOT.
TYRAK
COME, TYRANT! TASTE PAIN THE LIKES OF WHICH YOU'VE NEVER ENDURED BEFORE!
YOU WILL BEG FOR RELEASE FROM THE DARK KISS OF HELA'S DEATH RAKE!

WRONG.
YOU ARE THE LAST OF THE ALCHEMAX AESIR. THE OTHERS HAVE CRAWLED BACK BENEATH WHATEVER STONE AVATARR FOUND THEM; EXCEPT FOR JORDAN BOONE, WHO IS QUITE MAD.
HUK! HUK!
I HAVE ACCESS TO THE AESIR PROJECT DATA, INCLUDING THE EMERGENCY FAILSAFE CODE WORD FOR REVERSING THE NANOMORPHOSIS.
I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO TEST IT UNTIL NOW..
"...YGGDRASIL."
NOOOOOOO

PAUL-PHILIP! HELP ME... PLEASE...
CRASH
TIANA! NO!
TIANAAA!

AARRGHH!
FRAZAKKA!
YOU ARE AN ANACHRONISM, RAVAGE. A THROWBACK WHOSE EXTINCTION IS LONG OVERDUE.
MY ENDEAVORS WILL NOT ■ THWARTED BY THE LIKES OF YOU OR ANYONE ELSE!
HNNG!
INTRIGUING. THE CREATURE STILL LIVES. I AM ALMOST IN DANGER OF BEING IMPRESSED.

MY INTEGRAL ENERGY SYSTEMS ARE FLUCTUATING... IT'S BLEEDING ELECTRICAL ENERGY STRAIGHT FROM MY ARMOR!
FANGED GANGLIA ARE RASPING AGAINST IT, TRYING TO BORE THROUGH TO MY SKULL!
IT MUST SURVIVE BY DEVOURING CEREBRAL ELECTRICAL ENERGY... THE HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS...
BZZZKWAM!
IT HUNGERS FOR MY INTELLECT! MY MIND!
IT WILL LEARN AS OTHERS HAVE TO THEIR COST...
...DOOM IS NO ONE'S PREY!
SPLUTCH!

THEY SHOULD RE-BOOT SHORTLY, THOUGH THAT MAY NOT BE SOON ENOUGH.
SOME OF MY ARMOR'S CORE SYSTEMS ARE OFF-LINE DUE TO THE ASSAULT.
RIP HIM OPEN!
HE'S GOIN' DOWN! GET 'IM!
LET'S SEE WHAT KINDA MEAT'S IN THIS CAN!
BACK!
IT WILL BE A DARK DAY WHEN I CANNOT SCRAPE THE LIKES OF YOU FROM MY BOOTS!
KCHOW
ENOUGH!

RAVAGE! YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS! LIKE A STEROID-INDUCED SLAB OF BEEF!
REMIND ME OF THAT AGAIN, JUST BEFORE I TEAR YOUR HEAD OFF AND SPIT DOWN YOUR NECK!
RRAAAARGHH!
SKRANNG!
KCHOW!
WHUNG!
CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR! I GUESS MINDROT SLOWED YOU DOWN!
REST ASSURED WHATEVER IT DID TO YOU WON'T BE HALF AS PLEASANT AS WHAT I'VE GOT IN MIND!

I'M ABOUT TO MAKE HISTORY...
...AS THE MAN WHO ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT DOOM!
MY LIFE IS NOT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU TO TAKE!
KCHOW
I HAD BRIEFLY CONTEMPLATED ALLOWING YOU TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE, A DEBT OF HONOR AFTER THE ALCHEMAX AESIR AFFAIR...
-I AM GLAD I DID NOT. YOU BELONG HERE. A PATHETIC MONARCH OF AN EMPIRE OF EFFLUENT!

BIO-HAZARD CONTAINMENT VESSEL LAZARUS TO PRESIDENT DOOM.
GO AHEAD
WE ARE EN ROUTE AS PER YOUR ORDERS... E.T.A. FIVE MINUTES AND COUNTING.
ACKNOWLEDGED, COMMANDER.
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO MURDER EVERYONE HERE IN COLD BLOOD?! AND THEY CALL US MONSTERS!
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THESE PEOPLE YOU'RE GOING TO KILL...
THEY WERE ORDINARY FOLKS, WITH LIVES AND FAMILIES, HOPES AND AMBITIONS..
..UNTIL THE DAY THEY WERE EXILED TO HELLROCK! THOUSANDS DIED BUT SOME SURVIVED TO BECOME TWISTED, TORTURED TRAVESTIES OF HUMANITY!
LIKE THEM, I AM NOT AFRAID TO DIE. SOME WELCOME ITS RELEASE. DEATH HOLDS NO FEAR HERE. IF WE'RE TO DIE AT YOUR HANDS, FINE..

...BUT YOU'RE SURE AS HELL COMING WITH US!
YOU WERE RIGHT, DOOM, HELLROCK IS A CESSPIT AND THOSE WHO LIVE HERE BIOLOGICAL TRASH.

KA-WHUNNG
WE ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO YOU, OUR LIVES HAVE LITTLE WORTH...
KRANNG
..THEREFORE YOU CANNOT THREATEN US, YOU HAVE NO POWER OVER US BUT WE CAN TAKE SOMETHING FROM YOU—
...YOUR LIFE! YOUR GRAND SCHEMES WILL DIE HERE ■ HELLROCK!
HOW ABOUT THAT, MISTER PRESIDENT?

I WANT TO HEAR YOU BEG!
LOOK! LOOK!
WHAT THE HEL'?
FIVE MINUTES EXACTLY. EXCELLENT.
THIS IS BIO-HAZARD CONTAINMENT VESSEL LAZARUS TO PRESIDENT DOOM. WE ARE IN POSITION AND HOLDING. WILL COMMENCE LIQUID ADAMANTIUM FEED ON YOUR MARK, SIR.

YOU SEE, RAVAGE, I DO NOT INTEND TO PHYSICALLY DESTROY THIS RANCID PUSTULE YOU CALL HOME.
SINCE IT IS NO LONGER A TRUE ISLAND BUT A VAST KNOT OF FILTH, RISK OF GLOBAL CONTAMINATION WOULD BE SEVERE.
INSTEAD, HELLROCK AND ALL UPON IT WILL BE ENCASED IN LIQUID ADAMANTIUM, THEN SOLIDIFIED WITH AN ELECTRON PULSE.
THE ENTIRE ISLAND WILL BE FITTED WITH LOW-GRAVITY LIFTERS AND PROPELLED INTO SPACE... STARTING NOW. YOU MAY COMMENCE, COMMANDER.
WHAT CAN WE DO? TELL US WHAT TO DO?!
I...I DON'T KNOW.

FWOOSH!
AIIEEEEEEE!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE HARD RAIN IS COMING FOR US!
RAVAGE, DON'T LEAVE US!
I WON'T, BUT WE'VE ALL GOT TO GET TO HIGHER GROUND FAST!
WHO AM I KIDDING? THE RATE THIS STUFF'S FLOWING WE'VE GOT A MINUTE AT BEST!
WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

THE MORTAL COST OF THIS UNDERTAKING IS CHEAP GIVEN THE ALTERNATIVE; TO SHOW MERCY WOULD BE GLOBAL SUICIDE.
I HAVE SAVED THE WORLD AND THEY CHASTISE ME FOR IT! CRETINS!
DOOM! YOU LIZARD! YOU WON FOR NOW BUT I'LL BE BACK! I SWEAR IT ON THE LIVES OF EVERY SOUL ON HELLROCK!
I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON YOU AND YOUR HEIRS!
Y'HEAR ME, DOOM?!

DOOULP PLUP GLUP!
FAREWELL, RAVAGE!
DOOM TO LAZARUS! INITIATE ELECTRON PULSE ARRAY...
KKZZKK
KKZZKK
...ACTIVATE LOW-GRAVITY LIFTERS!

"LET US SIT UPON THE GROUND AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF KINGS."
--SHAKESPEARE, RICHARD II.
THE END

RANTS & RAVES

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Dear Rants & Raves,

I hope you'll print my letter before the final issue of RAVAGE 2099 sees print, because I'd like to let you guys know that for all the changes the character has gone through, the writers, the pencilers, inkers, et al, I still found that the book was a lot of fun.

It started out fun in the beginning with Stan Lee creating a new character for the new Marvel future and Paul Ryan's art was great. It was good to see Stan creating new characters and getting involved with the upcoming 2099 universe.

When Pat Mills & Tony Skinner took over, I knew that the book was in for a lot of changes, and boy, was I right. They certainly took Ravage all over the place, with costume changes, his new bestial existence and then taking him even further into that. All in all, though, I think they did a fine job with the character. Though I must say, it had nothing to do with Stan Lee's original vision of what he should be, they made it their own and it worked. When Paul Ryan left, I can't say as I was a big fan of Grant Morrin, but he did a nice job overall.

That brings us to Joe Bennett, who really brought to the character a greater visual sense, a dynamic and often ferocious quality that was essential to make the Beast-Man work. I see that you have Joe working on HULK 2099 now, and he's doing an equally fine job there. I hope that now that Ravage seems to have lost his place in the universe, Joe won't.

And I would be remiss if I didn't commend Greg Adams on his ever improving inking style. Greg really seems to have taken his job one step further. As I looked through all my back issues, you can see the phenomenal changes and improvements he's made.

Anyway, that's all I wanted to say. Though the book was not my favorite of the 2099 series, I'm still sorry to see it go. It was a great and it always had a

Jimmy Rey
Hastings, NY

Thanks for the very kind letter, Jimmy. We appreciate that you liked the series enough to collect the whole set, and we appreciate you're taking the time to express your assessment of our efforts.

Dear Rants & Raves,

AARRGGHH!! You can't cancel this book! You can't cancel any of the 2099 books! Ravage was the first original stand alone character in the 2099 Universe! He deserves better treatment than to have his life cut short by some overzealous dictator from the 1960's!! Please don't kill him! What about the other books? Can't he join the X-Men or something? He's certainly mutated enough times.

Well, I've had my say. I'm sure it's for naught, but at least my conscience is clear.

Jeff Arenas
Fort Lee, NJ

Geeze, just we don't think you'd take it so personally! We know you're disappointed, but there are still many other 2099 characters around including Meta-scream, Hecatomb, Doctor Doom & Nick Fury are around starting the 2099 universe. Or, even Joey with manipulator, thrilled with your description of them. He's just pacing the circle muttering, "What's wrong with this [BADGE]?"

Dear Joey & Lia,

Sigh. Oh well, Marvel cancels another book. I thought you guys weren't part of the Marvel Universe! Why should your books get the same treatment as regular Marvel Universe titles? It just doesn't seem fair. All of your books fit together as one complete family unit and to take one or more away really affects the fabric of your little corner. I know you haven't had but one crossover, but you have still managed to create a cohesive group of books and without Ravage, you're not only losing one of the original four titles, you're losing a book that was created by Marvel's creator! Stan Lee! What does Stan have to say about all this? Can't he pull his weight around and have it stopped? It's a real shame. I hope you guys are able to come up with something that will fill this void.

Matthew Smyth
Portland, OR

We've said it before, Matthew, we hate to see this book go, but unfortunately, any number of things decided its fate that had nothing to do with us and none of them could be changed in the end. We have many plans for the future of the future though, so there's no fear, we're all here.

Dear Rants & Raves,

Thank heaven you're finally putting this book out of its misery. I love 2099, I even loved 2099 UNLIMITED with all the weird things you guys put in there, but Ravage, ecchh. I just couldn't understand the point of this book. He's had more identity changes than Halloween Jack! Now you guys have room to do something really worthwhile! A fresh new title, something that won't be Ravage!

Greg Anderson
Ft Lauderdale, FL

Here's hoping that you can please all of the people all of the time, eh, Greg? But the 2099 range is large enough that there's something for everybody, even in the weird 2099 UNLIMITED. Thanks for your letter.

Dear Rants & Raves,

Will Ravage ever get back to see his family again? I hope so! I really miss that storyline a lot.

Oh, and have him change back to normal again. I really don't like his beastly side.

Jennifer Hopewell
Detroit, MI

Maybe in another life, Jennifer. But for now, Ravage digs a beast-man.

NEXT ISSUE

Stick a fork in us, we're done.

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